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Dispatch No. SGAA - 3136 # 1422

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To : Chief, SE

Date 20 March 1953

FROM : []

SUBJECT: GENERAL- BGFIEND/PARAM

SPECIFIC- BGFIEND Monthly Survey Report, 15 February - 14 March 1953

REFERENCE: SGAA-2861

1. Air Operations

A successful dummy supply mission was flown to Albania on 20 February. The purpose of this mission was to draw the attention of security forces away from Apple's area of operation. It was preceded by an abort on the 18th of February, due to prohibitive weather conditions.

2. Personnel

a. [] entered on duty 13 March to replace [] of BGFIEND.

b. [] entered on duty 9 March as an OBATLANTIS training officer. In addition to his duties as instructor, he will be charged with the administration of the site and wireless communications between OBATLANTIS and PYREX.

c. [] has been assigned case officer duties for BGFIEND during the past month, although his transfer to this project is not yet official.

3. Operations

a. Apple Tree Team

(1) The following W/T contacts were made with Apple during this period:

#70	16 February	[]	(2816)
#71	19 February	[]	(2816)
#72	19 February	[]	(2816)
#73	25 February	[]	(2887)

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#74 3 March

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#74	3 March	[]	2922)
#75	3 March		936)
#76	5 March		-2966)
#77	8 March		2986)
#78	11 March		029)
#79	12 March		044)
#80	14 March		3074)

(2) The highlights of this month's traffic are:

(a) We have received the names of 8 influential friends within Albania capable of raising a force of 140 men, 40 of which are now armed.

(b) Apple reports that HTGRUBBY is heard best at 1230 hours on the 46 meter band. The team can not evaluate the effectiveness of HTGRUBBY as there is no electric power in its vicinity, hence no radio receiving sets.

(c) We have been informed that the RS-1 dropped to Apple on 28 July 1952 has been damaged and is unusable.

(d) There has been no overt reaction to Stalin's death.

(e) Apple reports its zone of operation is quiet. AIRTIGHT has reiterated his desire to exfiltrate in order to make a thorough report on the team's activities to date.

b. Observant

Gadunce is now in Ioannina interrogating recent exfiltrates.

c. Oblavate

Gaccent continues to report on activities at Lavrion.

4. OBATLANTIS

a. Ground was broken at the site on 13 March. A force of 10 civilian laborers and 6 Greek Engineer Corps Technicians are now at work preparing the training area. This is the culmination of three months of planning and preparation. The insular location of OBATLANTIS presented transportation problems. All building materials for a pier and a house were assembled at a military wharf in Piraeus during the latter part of February. Negotiations were conducted with the Greek Army Engineers for the loan of a bulldozer, an air hammer, an electric water pump, barges and many lesser items of construction equipment. The Greek Navy was approached for the loan of an LCT to transport supplies and equipment from Piraeus and the Greek Army School at Loutraki to OBATLANTIS. The loading of 60 tons building materials

into the LCT
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into the LCT commenced on the morning of 12 March in Piraeus. Upon completion of the loading, the vessel proceeded to Loutraki where the heavy equipment and personnel provided by the Greek Engineers was loaded together with the civilian construction force, architects, and BGFIEND personnel. The LCT then proceeded to OBATLANTIS with the bulldozer loaded in her bow. Upon reaching the beach at the site, the bulldozer was driven out first cutting a road through the sand over which the LCT's cargo could be transported. Tents had previously been erected at the site by members of this office. Approximately 60 men worked for 12 hours on the 13th and 14th of March to unload the LCT using a truck, and a jeep and a trailer as well as manual labor.

b. All personnel involved in the construction of OBATLANTIS with the exception of the BGFIEND staff have been told they were constructing a meteorological and radar station to be operated for the Greek Government by American and Greek personnel.

c. Cooperation received from the American Military Mission and the Greek Armed Forces has been of the highest order. Needless to say, this project would have been infinitely more difficult, time consuming and expensive had it not been for the unstinting assistance of all involved.

d. The contractors are bound by contract to finish construction of the training area in a maximum of 90 working days. There is a strong possibility, however, that OBATLANTIS will be ready for occupancy by 15 June, or in 80 working days.

e. Under the terms of the contract all rock, sand and gravel required for construction will be quarried at the site. Most electrical fixtures, plumbing fixtures, and wood and all necessary machines such as generators, pumps, etc. are to be provided by BGFIEND. These items are now being procured in Germany, because of the prohibitive costs on the local market. We believe that much equipment can be taken from existing KUBARK supplies in Germany, thus substantially decreasing construction costs. Every effort is being made to exploit this source to the fullest.

f. Representatives of this office will make frequent trips to OBATLANTIS during construction to settle whatever problems arise and attempt to expedite completion of the project. It is unfortunate that authorization for the vessel currently under construction could not have been expedited, as the lack of an available KUBARK vessel on these trips forces us to hire local caiques at considerable expense.

g. Subsequent monthly survey reports will include an outline of progress at OBATLANTIS and a complete report will be prepared upon completion of the project.

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5. Action Outstanding - Washington

- a. Provision of Lek for 1953 operations.
- b. Operational clearance for AIBEAT.

6. Action Outstanding - Field

Construction of OBATLANTIS and preparation of training schedule for 1953.

RAB *RM* *WFH/lgk*
Distribution:

- 3 - Washington ✓
- 1 - Washington (Vital Documents)
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